

This year marks the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the incarceration of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese, Italian, and German ancestry.

In the last half-century, various communities have observed a "Day of Remembrance" on February 19<sup>th</sup>, the date E.O. 9066 was signed, to honor the distinct experiences of the Japanese, Italian, and German Americans during World War II. Executive Order 9066 marks the beginning of one of the most shameful chapters of our nation's history, one which did not formally end until it was rescinded by President Gerald Ford in February 19, 1976 in his speech "An American Promise," and it is important for this generation and future generations to remember our past wrongs and learn from them.

Organizations, families and individuals all over the country will observe a "Day of Remembrance" this February 19<sup>th</sup>. It is neither a day to celebrate, nor a day to mourn. Rather, it is a day for reflection, dialogue and education of Americans on a very important event in our nation's history. I hope that all of you will join me in appreciating how far we have come and reflect on how far we still have to go to meet our goal of having a more perfect union.